(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Ministry is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of National Lake Conservation Plan and National Wetlands Conservation Programme for the conservation and management of natural water bodies such as lakes and wetlands in the country. The objectives of the two schemes are to conserve polluted and degraded lakes and wetlands in the country.

To check pollution in rivers and to improve their quality through different pollution abatement measures, National River Conservation Plan is also under implementation in the towns along the identified polluted stretches of rivers. In case of forests, mitigative measures are stipulated under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, to avoid the ill effects of diversion of forest lands on the natural resources like water bodies, hills, rivers etc.

The Government has also notified certain developmental projects including industrial and construction activities which could be taken up only after prior environmental clearance under environmental regulations such as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Tiger population

427. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tigers, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the population of tigers in India has reduced to fifty per cent;

(c) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to protect and increase the population of tigers in Manas Reserve in Assam which is reported to be declining due to deforestation and rapid human settlement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The population estimates of tiger as per the recent refined All India tiger estimation carried out by Project Tiger (National Tiger Conservation Authority), in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India are given in the statement. [Refer to the statement appended to the answer to unstarred question 425 Part (a) and (b)]

(b) and (c) As per the findings of the recent all India estimation of tiger using the refined methodology, the total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The recent assessment of tiger population is based on determining spatial occupancy of tigers throughout potential tiger forests and sampling such

forests using camera traps in a statistical framework. This assessment is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks owing to several shortcomings in the latter. The new findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of such States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts.

(d) Under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, an amount of Rs. 127.60 lakhs has been sanctioned to Manas Tiger Reserve as per the Annual Plan of Operation received from the State, out of which Rs. 43.70 lakhs has been released during 2008-09. This, *inter-alia*, includes central assistance for antipoaching activities, habitat improvement, strengthening of infrastructure, addressing man-animal conflict, other safeguards and retrofitting measures for protection and conservation of wild tigers in Manas Tiger Reserve.

Lower Plain Ganga Project

428. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has approved the Lower Plain Ganga Project;

(b) if so, the charter of demands submitted by the local residents; and

(c) the details of resettlement plants laid down by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes sir. Lower Painganga Project in district Yavatmal, Maharashtra has been accorded Environmental and in principle Forest Clearance in May, 2007 and February, 2009 respectively.

(b) Some representations have been received from Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) such as Nimna Painganga Dharan Virodhi Sangharsh Samiti, Yavatmal Zilla Vikas Manch Yavatmal, and Lower Painganga Project Nirman Samasya Niwaran and Punarwasan Santha with differing views for and against the project.

(c) The Resettlement and Rehabilitation of the affected persons is required to be undertaken as per the provisions of Maharashtra Project Affected Rehabilitation Act 1999.

Cleaning of Yamuna river

†429. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated by the State Government of Delhi and the Central Government for cleaning of the Yamuna river during the last three years;

(b) the works carried out with these allocated amount with the details, workwise;

(c) whether the cleaning of the Yamuna river has met the expectations;

(d) whether the experts on environment and water were consulted for such cleaning works;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.